



WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

P. O. Box 7882 Madison, WI 53707-7882

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Contact: [Rep. Kooyenga](#) 608-266-9180

Contact: [Sen. Vukmir](#) 608-266-2512

Vukmir, Kooyenga unveil bill to ban investments with Iran

(Madison, WI) - State Sen. Leah Vukmir, R-Wauwatosa, and State Rep. Dale Kooyenga, R-Brookfield, unveiled legislation Thursday to prohibit the State of Wisconsin Investment Board from investing any of its \$130 billion in assets in companies that conduct business with Iran.

This bill comes on the heels of President Barack Obama agreeing to an unconstitutional treaty with Iran. Approving treaties with foreign countries falls under the purview of the U.S. Senate and requires a two-thirds vote. The so-called Iran “deal” was not approved by the U.S. Senate and is therefore an additional example of the Obama administration overstepping its bounds and bypassing the U.S. Congress, just as it did with immigration and healthcare.

“Our bill empowers Wisconsin to take reasonable actions to limit certain provisions of the treaty and offers the opportunity to limit the proliferation of Iran’s weapons program and reassert our state’s rights on the treaty that constitutionally should have been approved by the U.S. Senate,” said Kooyenga, who was stationed in Baghdad in 2008 and continues to serve as a military intelligence officer.

Currently 25 states have imposed sanctions similar to what is outlined in the proposed legislation. Adding Wisconsin to this list gives another reason for companies around the world to question whether they should do business with Iran.

“Iran is not our friend, and the president is playing rhetoric games by not calling his treaty with Iran a treaty,” said Vukmir, whose son is a young officer in the U.S. Army. “Since the president won’t lead on this issue, it is up to us to say Wisconsin won’t do business with our enemies. It’s the least we can do.”

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